



Justices	Keith G. Kautz	Michael K. Davis	Kate M. Fox	Lynne Boomgaarden	Kari Gray
Confidence Score	Mild Republican	Mild Republican	Mild Republican	Mild Republican	Strong Republican
Opinion Partners		✓	✓		
Dissenting Minority		✓	✓		
Determining Majority	✓			✓	✓
Lone Dissenter			✓		

- ▶ Number of justices: **5**
- ▶ Number of cases: **158**
- ▶ Percentage of cases with a unanimous ruling: **96.2% (152)**
- ▶ Justice most often writing the majority opinion: **Justice Boomgaarden (28)**
- ▶ Per curiam decisions: **26**
- ▶ Concurring opinions: **6**
- ▶ Justice with most concurring opinions: **Justice Kautz (3)**
- ▶ Dissenting opinions: **6**
- ▶ Justice with most dissenting opinions: **Justice Fox (3)**

COURT CONTENTION

The Wyoming Supreme Court decided 152 cases unanimously in 2020, but there were some patterns among the justices which allowed us to identify a possible determining majority and dissenting minority, as well as opinion partners and a lone dissenter.

Opinion partners/dissenting minority

The Wyoming Supreme Court is a five-member court, which means that the opinion partners are also the dissenting minority on the court. The justices who ruled together apart from the majority most frequently were Justices Davis and Fox. They ruled together three times in the minority: once concurring with the majority and twice dissenting. In our *Ballotpedia Courts: State Partisanship* study, Justices Davis and Fox both recorded mild Republican Confidence Scores. Justice Fox and Justice Kautz also dissented apart from the majority in one case.

Determining majority

On the Wyoming Supreme Court 96.2 percent of all cases were decided unanimously. The court decided five cases by split decision in 2020. The justices in the majority most frequently in the split cases were Justices Boomgaarden, Gray, and Kautz. In our *Ballotpedia Courts: State Partisanship* study, every justice on the Wyoming Supreme Court recorded a Republican Confidence Score. Justices Boomgaarden, Davis, Fox, and Kautz recorded Mild Republican Confidence Scores. Justice Gray recorded a Strong Republican Confidence Score.

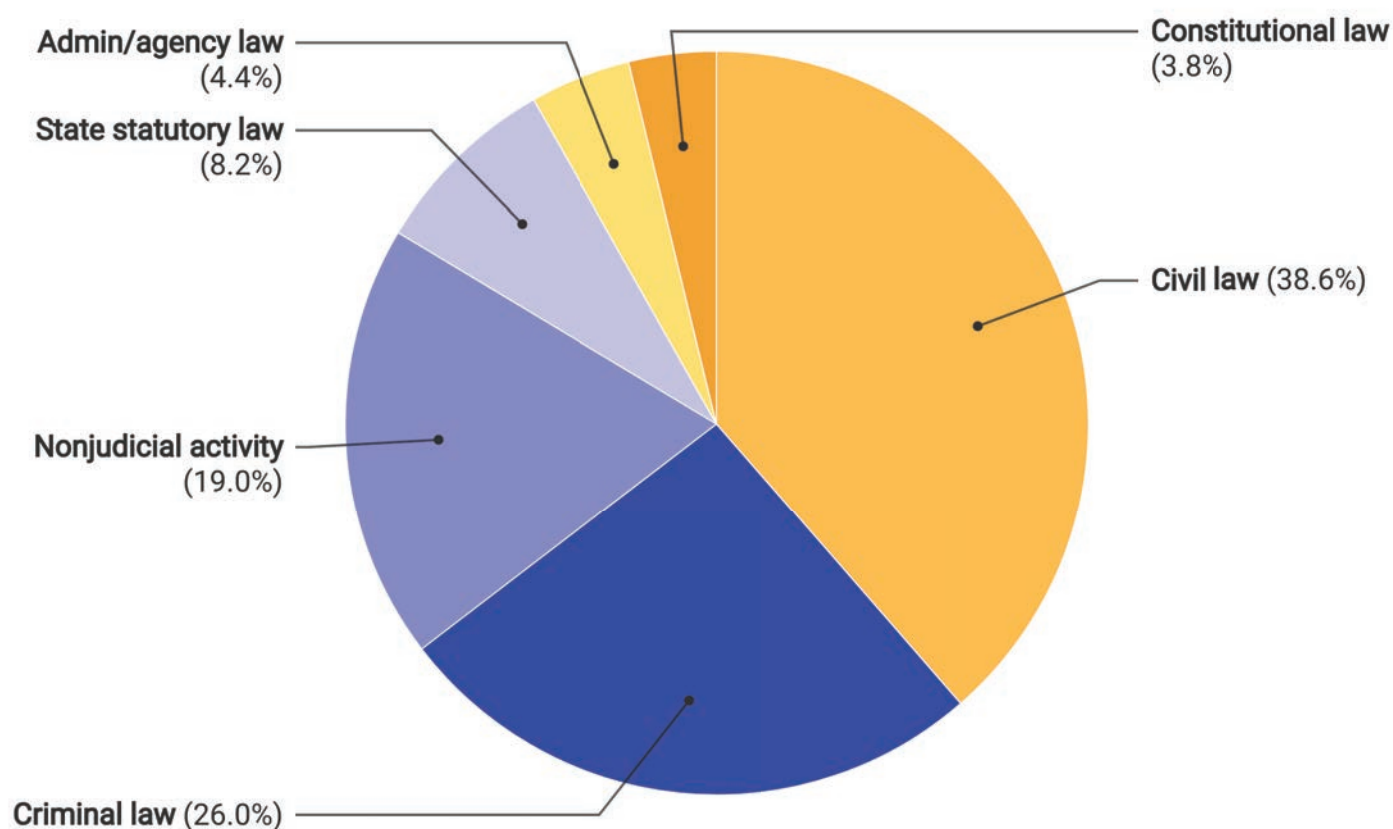
Lone dissenter

Justice Fox wrote more dissenting opinions than any other justice on the court in 2020. She departed from the majority seven times, which was more than any other justice on the court. Justice Fox wrote two concurring opinions and joined one concurring opinion in 2020. She wrote two dissenting opinions and joined one dissenting opinion written by Justice Davis, and she joined substitute Justice Lavery's opinion concurring in part and dissenting in part in one case. In our *Ballotpedia Courts: State Partisanship* study, Justice Fox recorded a Mild Republican Confidence Score.

COURT JURISDICTION

The Wyoming Supreme Court has general appellate jurisdiction, hearing appeals from lower Wyoming courts in civil and criminal cases. The Supreme Court has original jurisdiction in cases involving quo warranto and mandamus relating to all state officers and in cases regarding habeas corpus. The Court also has the power to issue writs of mandamus, review, prohibition, habeas corpus, certiorari, and other writs necessary to the exercise of its appellate duties.

Case types decided by Wyoming Supreme Court, 2020



BALLOTPEDIA

The most common cases heard by the Wyoming Supreme Court in 2020 were civil cases. Of the 158 cases it heard, 61 were civil law, or 38.6 percent of its total caseload for the year. A civil case is one that involves a dispute between two parties, one of whom seeks reparations or damages.

The second most common cases that reached the supreme court were criminal law cases. A criminal case involves a final criminal appeal before the court of last resort. The Wyoming Supreme Court heard 41 criminal law cases in 2020, or 25.9 percent of its total caseload for the year.

The third most common cases that reached the court were nonjudicial cases. A case is considered nonjudicial activity if it does not involve a formal hearing and discussion before the court. The Wyoming Supreme Court heard 30 nonjudicial activity cases in 2020, or 19.0 percent of its total caseload for the year.